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Oxendon Rural District Council,

1925.

BY

C. T. SCOTT, M.A., M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Market Harborough :

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The Annual Report for the Oxendon Rural District.

By C. T. SCOTT, M.A., M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

1925.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, together with that of your Sanitary Inspector.

Natural and Social Conditions.

Area		32,991 acres.
Population	Census 1921	3,972
	Estimated (1925) ...	3,974
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ...		1,192
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)		1,211
Rateable value		£62,450
Sum represented by a penny rate		£179

The district is a rural one comprising 19 parishes and consisting almost entirely of grazing land. It is situated in and around the Welland valley in the County of Northamptonshire ; it is an essentially healthy district.

Vital Statistics : The number of deaths at all ages is slightly below the average this year, 50 as compared with 64 last year and 55·6 the average for the previous 5 years. There have been 51 births, (including 3 illegitiment births,) which is the lowest number for many years, the average for the previous 5 years is 70. The infant mortality rate is again very low only two deaths of infants under one year old have died giving a rate, per 1000 births, of 40.

	Birth Rate : (per 1000 population)	Death Rate : (per 1000 population)	Infant Mortality Rate : (per 1000 births)
England & Wales, 1925	18·3	12·2	75
Oxendon R. D. 1925	12·8	12·6	40
„ Average of previous 5 years	18·3	13·1	50·9

Of the causes of death at all ages Heart Disease 13, and Cancer 7 show the highest numbers for any defined disease. The death rate from Cancer is usually high in the district, the average number of deaths from this disease during the past 5 years is 9 per annum or 17 per cent of the total number of deaths.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	48	28	20	Birth rate 12·8
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	
Deaths		50	25	25	Death rate 12·6

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth 0

Death of infants under one year of age	Legitimate	2	1	1	Infant mortality rate 40.
	Illegitimate	0			

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the year £588 17 0

Provision of Health Services.

(a) *Hospitals.* There is no hospital in the district; general Hospital treatment is available at Leicester, Market Harborough, Kettering and Northampton. Fever and Small-pox cases are provided for at the Kettering Isolation Hospital which has recently been enlarged and the Oxendon Rural District now pays an annual rate to this Hospital and is represented on its Committee with a right to send patients when necessary.

(b) *Ambulance, Treatment Clinics, Institutions for unmarried mothers.* None.

(c) *Public Health Officers :—*

	Whole or part time.		Salary.	Qualifications.
Medical Officer of Health	Part	...	Yes	M.A., M.D.
Sanitary Inspector ...	Part	..	Yes	M.R,S.I. & Meat Certificate.

(d) *Professional Nursing.* There are four district nursing associations in the area each employing one nurse-midwife. They are managed by voluntary committees and expenses are paid by subscriptions, they receive no subsidy. No special nurses for infectious diseases were engaged during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) *Water.* The district is supplied by public and private wells and pumps. There was no complaint of shortage during the year. The water has no special plumbo-solvent action. Improvements in the public water supply have been made at East Farndon, Welford, and Stoke Albany. The samples examined from public wells have all been satisfactory.

(2) *River and stream pollution.* None.

(3) *Drainage and Sewerage.* The whole area is now provided with efficient drainage systems, septic tanks and filters. Large improvements have been made at Wilbarston; new sections of sewers have also been laid at Stoke Albany and Kelmarsh.

(4) *Closet accommodation.* There are still a large number of earth closets in the district but these are gradually being replaced by water flushed systems, 13 such conversions have been made this year.

(5) *Scavenging.* Refuse has generally been disposed of by householders but this year scavenging has been initated in the parishes of Welford, Sibbertoft, Clipston and East Farndon.

(6) *Sanitary Inspections.* General ... 792
Housing ... 174

Defects in all cases have been remedied except that some condemned houses have not been pulled down owing to shortage of new houses.

(7) *Smoke abatement.* No action.

(8) *Premises and Occupations* controlled by Bye-laws. None.

(9) *Schools.* Sanitary condition and water supply good There was no school closure for infectious disease.

HOUSING.

(I) *General Housing Conditions.*

(a) *Shortage:* About six new houses each are required in Braybrooke and Welford; otherwise there is no marked shortage.

(b) Measures contemplated to meet the shortage: New houses at Braybrooke are contemplated by the Local Authority, but nothing is yet contemplated at Welford.

(II) *Overcrowding:* (1) Extent: One case reported during 1925.
(2) Cause: A family came to live in Oxendon where there was no free house.

(III) *Fitness of houses:* General standard of houses is fair; a great many dwellings are old and old-fashioned village houses; considerable dilapidation exists at Welford and Braybrooke. Action taken as regards unfit houses included 16 notices served and 12 defects remedied in consequence.

(IV) *Unhealthy areas:* None.

(V) *Bye-laws:* These have just been adopted.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

New houses erected:

(a)	Total	13
(b)	With State assistance—	
	(i) By Local Authority	6
	(ii) By other bodies or persons	7

(I) *Unfit dwelling-houses:*

(1)	Total dwelling-houses inspected (Housing Acts) ...	174
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected under 1910 Regulations or Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	174
(3)	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3) found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation ...	10

(II) *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:*

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers ... None

(III) *Action under Statuary Powers:*

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925:

(1)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after formal notices:	
	(a) By owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	None
(3)	Number of houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	5

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	16

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after servtce of formal notices :

(a) by owners 9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners None

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 & 15 of Housing Act 1925 :

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders 6

(2) Number of houses in respect of which closing orders were made 6

(3) Number of houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit 1

(4) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 0

(5) Number of houses demolished in persuance of demolition orders 0

Inspection and Supervision of food.

(a) *Milk Supply.* There is a good supply of wholesome milk in district but some villages have found a difficulty in obtaining milk owing to the producers sending their whole produce to the neighbour-towns.

(I) Action taken as to tuberculous milk and cattle
Under County Council

(II) Number of licenses granted for sale of scheduled milk None

(III) Refusal or revocation of licenses for graded milk ... None

(IV) Bacteriological examination of graded and other milk :
Undertaken by County Council

(b) *Meat.*

(1) Meat inspection. Inspections are made at intervals by the Sanitary Inspector at the time of slaughter and when exposed for sale : there are no arrangements for disposal of condemned meat.

(ii) (iii) No public slaughter-houses in the District.

Private slaughter-houses :

In 1920	In January 1925	In December 1925
8	9	9

(c) *Other Foods :* Under County Council supervision.

(d) *Food Poisoning :* No epidemic of food poisoning has occured.

Infectious Diseases.

There has not been a great deal of infectious disease this year, viz : 7 cases of Scarlet Fever, one each of Small-pox and Diphtheria, two of Erysipelas and four of Pneumonia as well as an epidemic of Mumps. Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Sanitary authority and bacteriological examinations are made at private laboratories by arrangement. The Schick and Dick tests have not been in use. There was a large epidemic of a mild type of Small-pox in a neighbouring Urban District but only one case was imported and no further cases occurred. A large number of vaccinations were performed by private doctors and public vaccinators but none by the Medical Officer of health in his official capacity. Disinfection of infected houses and clothing is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector on cessation of infection.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox	1	1	0
Scarlet Fever	7	2	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Enteric	0	0	0
Puerpual Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	?	4

Age incidence of Scarlet Fever :

1—2	years ...	1
5—10	,, ...	1
15—20	,, ...	3
20—25	,, ...	1
45—65	,, ...	1

Tuberculosis :

Eight Pulmonary and three non-pulmonary new cases have occured which is considerably above the average. The average case incidence for the past five years has been 3·6 pulmonary and 0·4 non-pulmonary.

Age periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1— 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
10—15	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	4	1	2	1	2	1	—

There are no tuberculosis Dispensaries or Sanatoria in the district.

Maternity and Child Welfare Work is undertaken by the County Council.

1. *Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	4	None	None
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)...	None		
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	None		
Total	4	None	None

2. *Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.* Nil.

Outwork in unwholesome premises, Section 108. Nil.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES T. SCOTT

OXENDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's and Surveyor's Report for 1925.

Parishes.	Defective Houses.	Defective Drains.	Defective Closets, etc.	Accumulation of Refuse, etc.	Unclean Houses.	Registered Slaughter Houses.	Registered under Cow-sheds Orders.	Overcrowding Cases.	Houses under 1919 Government Scheme.	Bakehouses.	Out-workers. 1st Half.	Out-workers. 2nd Half.	Factories.
Arthingworth		1					1						
Ashley		1					3		4	1			
Brampton Ash							2						
Braybrooke		1		3		2	7		6	1	3	3	
Clipston		1	3	4		4	5		4	1			
Dingley													
East Farndon	1	1	1				5		4				
Kelmarsh							2						
Marston Trussell							1		4				
Hothorpe													
Oxendon		1	1	1			3	1	6				
Sibbertoft							3		4	1			
Sulby							2						
Sutton Bassett							1		4				
Stoke Albany	1	2		1					6	1			
Thorpe Lubenham													
Weston							1		4	1			
Wilbarston	11	2		3		1	2			1	5	5	1
Welford	3	3	6	8	1	2	11		2	2			
TOTALS	16	13	11	20	1	9	49	1	48	9	8	8	1

ARTHINGWORTH—
An additional septic tank and outfall sewer has been constructed.

KELMARSH—
80 yards of new 9in. sewer has been constructed on the main road, with two manholes.

STOKE ALBANY.
A new length of sewer has been carried out in the centre of the village.

WILBARSTON...
A new central sewer system has been completed at a cost of £400. The whole is now working well.

GENERAL.—During the year 792 inspections and re-inspections were made, with 174 housing inspections. Scavenging has been carried out at Farndon, Welford, Sibbertoft and Clipston. Six houses are being erected at Wilbarston under the 1924 Act. Three houses are occupied. Nine houses have been erected under the subsidy clause by private owners. The number registered under the Cowsheds Orders is now 49, and all buildings are in order. 13 privies have been converted to water-flushed closets and connected with the sewers. The overcrowding case at Oxendon was abated at once. All buildings were disinfected after infection cases. Sewer outfall provision is now equal to the demand, and are regularly attended to. As Meat Inspector I have inspected all meat supplies and certified accordingly.

W. J. SMITH, M.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

February, 1926.